

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Town of Whitecourt
held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Present:	Mayor Pickard; Councillors Baker, Chauvet, Lanctot, Lapointe, and Schlosser; Chief Administrative Officer Smyl; and Recording Secretary Grimstad-Davidson.
Absent:	Deputy Mayor McAree.
Call to Order & Mayor's Address:	The Meeting was called to order at 4:19pm; Mayor Pickard presiding.
Adoption of Agenda:	<p><u>25-018 Moved by Councillor Lanctot</u></p> <p>That the Agenda be adopted by adding the January 23, 2025 Letter from the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors regarding traffic signals at the intersection of Highway 43 and 33 Street as an Item of Information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Minutes from the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting:	<p><u>25-019 Moved by Councillor Lapointe</u></p> <p>That the Minutes from the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
Public Input Session:	<p>Crystal Quast was present to address Council regarding the crosswalk on 53 Avenue at Central School. Ms. Quast stated that vehicles consistently park along yellow lines, and often for extended periods and that due to the congestion, the crosswalk guards have a difficult time scanning the roads for safety. Ms. Quast presented photos showing the vehicle parking at the school.</p> <p><u>25-020 Moved by Councillor Baker</u></p> <p>That Council refer the 53 Avenue crosswalk at Central School topic to Administration for further review.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
2024 Municipal Enforcement Report:	<p>The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Safety to provide a review of Municipal Enforcement in 2024. The Director stated that the report will be submitted to the Solicitor General as part of the annual reporting.</p> <p><u>25-021 Moved by Councillor Chauvet</u></p> <p>That Council accept the 2024 Municipal Enforcement Report as information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
2025 FCSS Grant Allocations:	<p>Councillor Baker declared a potential conflict of interest as she is the Chair for Community Lunchbox Society and vacated Council Chambers. Time 4:43pm.</p> <p>The Chief Administrative Officer advised that applications for the 2025 FCSS Grants had been reviewed by the Community Services Advisory Board and introduced the Director of Community Services to review the applications. The Director reviewed the scoring process.</p>

25-022 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Community Services Advisory Board recommendation and allocate the 2025 FCSS Grants as follows:

Groups Applying:	Project:	Recommendation
McLeod River Primary Care Network	Provide workshops with a focus on mental health, physical wellness and social engagement.	\$2,544
Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre	Whitecourt Community Resource Guide – updated/reprint of keychain resource guide.	\$2,200
Community Lunch Box	Volunteer Coordination and support.	\$13,860
Total		\$18,604

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Baker returned to the Chambers. Time 4:46pm.

Healthy Aging Alberta and Whitecourt:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Community Services to provide further information on the Healthy Aging Alberta and Whitecourt. The Director introduced the FCSS Program Coordinator to review the Healthy Aging Alberta and Whitecourt program.

25-023 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Healthy Aging Alberta and Whitecourt as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Economic Development & Tourism Report:

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Economic Development Officer to review the semi-annual Economic Development & Tourism Report. The Officer provided highlights from the previous six months, and economic impact statistics resulting from the Sports Hosting Program. She also commented on the upcoming Health Professionals Career Expo.

25-024 Moved by Councillor Lanctot

That Council accept the Economic Development & Tourism Report as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2025 Annual Snowmobile Rally Checkpoint:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Council members were invited to attend the checkpoint for the upcoming Whitecourt Trailblazers 2025 Annual Snowmobile Rally.

25-025 Moved by Councillor Baker

That Council Members be authorized to participate in the 2025 Whitecourt Trailblazers Snowmobile Rally event on Saturday, February 15, 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed. Time 5:15pm.

The meeting reconvened. Time 5:17pm.

Growing Canada’s Community Canopies Funding Application.

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the Director of Planning and Development and Director of Infrastructure to provide details on the proposed application to the Growing Canada’s Canopies initiative offered through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

25-026 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council support the Town of Whitecourt’s application for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Growing Canada’s Community Canopies initiative for the Phase 1 Highway 43 Vitalization planting project, with the Town’s contribution of \$160,000 to be funded from the Vitalization Reserve, and;

That Council also recognizes that the lifetime contribution from the Growing Canada’s Community Canopies initiative will not exceed \$10 million for tree planting within the Town of Whitecourt, inclusive of a maximum contribution of \$1 million for infrastructure activity costs, and that if approved this project will be counted towards that limit.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appointment of Deputy Mayor:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that Deputy Mayor McAree’s term expires at the end of February and Council needs to appoint a Deputy Mayor per the Procedure Bylaw.

25-027 Moved by Mayor Pickard

That Council appoint Councillor Serena Lapointe to serve as Deputy Mayor from March 1 – June 30, 2025.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Lanctot attended an Economic Development Committee meeting and the Council Planning Session.

Councillor Schlosser also attended the Economic Development Committee meeting and Council Planning Session, along with a Whitecourt Heritage Society meeting.

Councillor Lapointe attended a Library Board orientation meeting, and a Community Futures Yellowhead East (CFYE) meeting; also attending the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce President’s Gala on behalf of CFYE. She also attended the Council Planning Session.

Councillor Baker attended the Council Planning Session.

Councillor Chauvet also attended the Council Planning Session.

Mayor Pickard attended meetings for Canadian Rail Alliance Authority and one regarding a small modular reactor; also attended an Economic Development Committee meeting and the Council Planning Session.

25-028 Moved by Councillor Schlosser

That Council accept the Councillor Reports as information.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items of Information:

25-029 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the following items be accepted as information:

- a) Town Accounts – Cheques 90925 – 91337;
- b) November 28 – Letter from RCMP re Alberta Municipalities Meeting;
- c) December 17 – Letter to Lions Club re Lights at Highway 43 & 33 Street;
- d) December 17 – Letter to Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association re Parking Lot;
- e) December 17 – Letter to Whitecourt Rotary Club re Peace Pole at Festival Park;
- f) December 18 – Letter to Minister of Infrastructure re Lights at Highway 43 & 33 Street;
- g) December 18 – Letter to Minister of Transportation re Automated Traffic Enforcement;
- h) January 23, 2025 – Letter from the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors re Traffic Signals at the Intersection of Highway 43 and 33 Street;
- i) Town of Whitecourt 2024 Press Releases:
 - i. December 17 – Whitecourt Town Council Update;
 - ii. December 17 – Whitecourt Approves 2025 Interim Budget;
 - iii. December 31 – Fire at Whitecourt Regional Landfill;
- j) Woodlands County 2024 Press Releases:
 - i. December 20 – Woodlands County Council Recap – December 18;
 - ii. December 20 – Woodlands County Appoints CAO;
- k) Mayor’s Calendar; and
- l) Council Calendar.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

25-030 Moved by Councillor Chauvet

That the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned. Time: 5:35pm.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

T. Pickard

Mayor

P. Smyl

Chief Administrative Officer